

FAMOUS SCOTLAND YARD

EDWARD MARSHALL SPENDS A WEEK WITH ITS CLEVER SLEUTHS.

Fourteen Thousand Constables Who Earn Only \$6 a Week—An English View of Superintendent Byrnes.

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ONDON, April 17.—I have devoted a part of every one of the past ten days to Scotland Yard or to roaming about London in the course of my Scotch Yard peregrinations. I am assured that this country has not been extended to a newspaper man before, and am inclined to think the statement accurate. The London police are not favorably disposed toward the London reporters. They call them "puff-padders" and speak of them with scorn and distrust.

The open space which threw the portals of Scotland Yard's mysterious apartment for me was a letter from Sir Edward Byrnes of New York, who had been considered over here to be the greatest detective in the world. There is not a man in Scotland Yard from the chief superintendent down to the constable in uniform at the door, who does not understand and listen to him with reverent interest.

Scotland Yard is the most famous detective centre in the world. It owes its fame to Dickens, and by to many. Story writers, and by to many. Story writers, and by to the great detective tales without number which Dickens wrote, and Scotland Yard as the public knows it, is their creation. Many writers of romances, guides and bad, have had a hand in its building, and it has a strange and wonderful structure. They live in a remote part of London, generally among the docks. They make it dark and gloomy buildings, low and with little black windows, looking mysterious through London fog. They fill it all of secret passages and uncanny stairs and concealed cupboards as a Masonic lodge room. Shrewd men of crime, with whom they may clear away, and in the moments telling gossamer stories of extraordinary sinners. Shrewd sleuths on duty, clad ever in dark disguises, glide cleverly from dark doorways into the shadows and the byways to recover stolen necklaces of inestimable value, to find abducted maidens, to solve the dark and bloody puzzles of impossibly mysterious murders.

THE REAL SCOTLAND YARD.

This is the Scotland Yard of fiction. The Scotland Yard of fact is a handsome red brick building, elaborately trimmed with graystone, and facing the

center of two municipal governments. "The city—the old town, where the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and most of the great institutions are situated, is governed by the corporation, headed by the Lord Mayor. "The county," which completely surrounds the city, and which contains the greater part of London's population, is governed by the County Council. The city and county have police forces which are entirely separate in system and management. The city force is simply an uninteresting constabulary, with no detective or such important work.

It is the county force—the Metropolitan police—which centres at Scotland Yard. This force consists of 15,231 men, of whom 46 are in the criminal investigation, or detective department. There is very little difference in the number of crimes committed in London and in American cities, pro rata of population, and some reason for the English belief of vice and crime in the greater number of policemen here. New York, for instance (the most thoroughly policed city in the United States), has only 4,180 men on its entire force, with which to guard a population of approximately 2,000,000.

FAVORITISM IMPOSSIBLE.

The safeguards against favoritism in the acceptance of men for the force are many. The candidate is first examined by a district or precinct surgeon and then by the chief surgeon and others, and the commissioners. These are subordinate to the Home Secretary. Now Mr. Asquith—who is also known as the Secretary of State. Thus the power of appointment is really a Government institution, as the Home Secretary is Queen's Cabinet Minister.

Trolley Octopus.

The ranks are these: Constable, sergeant, inspector (analogous to the New York captain), superintendent (analogous to the New York inspector); chief superintendent (analogous to New York's superintendent). Beyond these are the commissioners. These, in turn, are subordinate to the Home Secretary.

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